

**The official position of Hungary on COM (2010) 212 final working paper
published by the European Commission, 4th May 2010**

Hungary would like to thank the Commission's work which results in the published background papers (*SEC (2010) 613 final*) and the working document (*COM (2010) 212 final*). These documents provide an appropriate basis for the exchange of views of all interested parties. The working document gives a clear picture of the common efforts in the past and highlights the directions to be followed in the future.

Concerning the questions presented in the Commission's working document Hungary would like to emphasize the following issues.

Methodology

As to the methodology on the determination of the future core network, from the final report of Expert Group 1 we can see that currently there is no sufficiently detailed, agreed methodology for the planning of the most important transport network of the EU. Very important issues remain open like, for example, the weighting of cohesion aspects. This situation raises serious concerns. We strongly believe that the main European transport links should be established on the basis of objective and exact criteria adopted by consensus.

The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (Article 172) declares that "guidelines and projects of common interest which relate to the territory of a Member State shall require the approval of the Member State concerned". Therefore, according to our position, it is essential to consult with the Member States on both the comprehensive network and the core network. The principle of subsidiarity also requires this kind of process.

At the same time we agree that the main nodes of the network should be the capitals and major regional centres of the Member States. We also welcome the Commission's efforts taking into account the main transnational axes and transport connections to neighbouring third countries, in particular acceding countries while defining the core network.

Funding

The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union also declares in Article 170 that the Union shall contribute to the development of trans-European networks. This includes the development of the comprehensive network. Therefore Hungary cannot accept the concept of reducing future EU funding to the core network only.

We understand that Europe is facing difficulties in terms of available resources and has to consider the establishment of new financing instruments. However, we have to keep in mind

that the Cohesion Fund was created in order to support the cohesion goals, to eliminate disparities between developed and less developed regions and to foster integration. This process has not been completed yet. Without a transport infrastructure of adequate level in this region we do not believe we can talk about a real single European transport market.

In our view, neither the content of the working document, nor the previous statements of the Commission do not give a guarantee that the EU co-financing for the development of the comprehensive network shall remain available in the future. Hungary wants to insist on this possibility as it stands in the Council's conclusions on the Green Paper on the future development of the trans-European transport network.

Technology

We highly appreciate and support the intention of the Commission to reduce environment pollution caused by road transport through developing and introducing new technologies. We welcome that appropriate environmental protection interventions are implemented through cutting the emissions of conventional vehicles. However we doubt that the TEN-T budget can provide enough resources for this research beside realisation of the aims set by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and of the goals included in the TEN-T Guidelines.

Summary

Hungary, once again, expresses its acknowledgements for the work of the Commission. In the same time, we ask the Commission to take our position into account during the drafting of legislation. It is also important to give an opportunity to the Council and the European Parliament to discuss the working document after the closure of the written consultation procedure.

The Hungarian Presidency is planning to organise an informal ministerial meeting on the TEN-T review on 6-7 February 2011. We hope this informal ministerial meeting will contribute to clear legislation which is acceptable for all the Member States and properly serves the pan-European interests as well.